**TWSRC**

**AGM 21st Oct 2024**

**Chairman’s Report**

Court heaters have certainly been our most challenging project this last year….

As members are aware, the old gas court heaters, following an inspection were condemned and decommissioned. The Committee undertook a comprehensive search for a replacement solution and despite electric power constraints it was decided to instal a longwave radiant system, a solution that avoids a prohibitive and costly upgrade to the power supply. We still face challenges in dealing with an old building and courts with little or no insulation. Works have been recently undertaken to close off some of the vents in all courts, and tweaks have been made to the resting temperature and auto timings. Further testing and re-configuration is ongoing and although not yet perfect I am confident we will get there.

We are extremely grateful to Nigel Gerrett and Ian Simmons for all the work they have and are continuing to put in.

**Finances**

Mike Rose, our Treasurer, is stepping down from the Committee. The treasurer’s role is never an easy one and Mike had expertly managed us through Covid as well as successfully managing the recent financial inflationary pressures faced by the club. I am pleased that Rob Park has joined the Committee, and he will assume the Treasurer position post the AGM.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Mike for his efforts over the last few years.

**Membership**

Membership numbers continue to remain at healthy levels and court usage is on the up. There have been some further changes to the England Squash membership model, which Rollo Bramwell, our membership sec will expand on at the AGM. Although the committee are always looking at ways in which to increase revenue, subs are still the club’s primary source of income and Rollo continues to do an excellent job in managing our membership levels.

**Juniors**

Our junior academy lead by Declan Wainwright, continues to thrive, with the number of participating juniors yet again on the increase. We have established good links with 2 local schools, Skinners and Bennett Memorial and have recently secured funding to run an after-school club.

The juniors have had some notable successes with players performing well in ES junior and County events.

Congratulations to Theo Adoki (BU13 #29), Tom Wainwright (BU15 #64) who both improved their England rankings. Abbey Bradshaw, Theo and Tom have also been selected to represent Kent in the intercounty competition to be held this November.

Thanks to our coaching staff, Zeb, Nick and Phoebe who do an enormous amount to support our juniors as well as providing coaching to our general membership.

**Teams and Tournaments**

We are lucky to have a strong team squash structure in place with 4 teams participating in both the Winter and Summer leagues. The current 24/25 Winter season has just started and for the first time the Club has 4 teams in the top 4 divisions.

Team squash has been a real highlight with our 1st Team, captained by Jonny Powell, winning Div1 of the Winter23/24 County league. A fantastic effort and congratulations to all those who played.

Our 2nd Team finished 4th in Div2, the 3rd team just avoided relegation from Div and the 4th team finished 2nd in Div5, securing promotion.

In the 2024 Summer league, the 1st Team finished 3rd in Div 1, the 2nd team finished 4th in Div2, the 3rds managed 4th in Div4 and the 4th’s finished in 5th place in Div5.

Many thanks to Adam Barnes, our Club Captain for all the work he does in organising the leagues and club tournaments and to all individual team captains for all their efforts.

Congratulations to our 2023 tournament winners / runners up:

Mens Champion – Nick Joughin (Runner up – Jonny Powell)

Vintage – David Speed (Richard Morris)

Super Vintage – John Barham (Richard Hillier)

Veterans – Jolyon Head (David Speed)

Mens Plate – Sam Colegate (Joe Drewett)

Handicap – David Speed (Jonny Powell)

Mens Doubles – ?

Thanks to Steve Pearce for again managing the box leagues. We are introducing some new ideas and incentives in a bid to further grow the number of players (and boxes) so do keep and eye out for coming announcements.

**Premises**

The committee continue to recognise the importance of maintaining our building, its facilities and courts and we now have in place a yearly programme of court works, with repairs scheduled for early Jan25. This unavoidably will involve court closures and members will be notified near the time.

Guy Shaw has recently joined the committee and will be looking after premises.

We remain grateful to Sara Barraud for all she does to keep the decking area clean and tidy and supplied with plants.

I would like to thank all our bar staff (headed by Mark Nicolson) for the work they put in and the cleaning staff for their continuing hard work.

Lastly, a big thank you to all committee members who give up their valuable spare time.

Chairman

Martin Steyn